

REMARKS

It is noted, with appreciation, that the Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 6 and 8-10, although objected to, as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As the Examiner will note, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3, and correspondingly, claim 3 has been canceled from the present application. In addition, claims 5 and 6 have been combined with original claim 1 and rewritten as newly added claim 11, and correspondingly, claims 5 and 6 have been canceled from the present application. Finally, claims 7 and 8 have been incorporated into original claim 1 and rewritten as newly added claim 12, and correspondingly, claims 7 and 8 have been canceled from the present application. Also, claim 9 has been amended so as to be dependent from newly added claim 12.

Accordingly, in view of the amendments, it is believed that the rejection of the claims as set forth in paragraphs 2-5 have been rendered moot, and thus the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

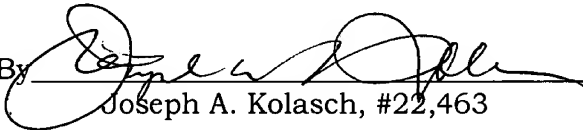
C nclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mr. Joseph A. Kolasch (Reg. No. 22,463) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Joseph A. Kolasch, #22,463

JAK/clb

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000